

**Steps to Independent Living Series**

# **HOW TO Take Care of Your Home**

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**WALCH**  **PUBLISHING**<sup>®</sup>

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# Contents

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<i>To the Student</i> .....	<i>v</i>
<i>Self-Test</i> .....	<i>vii</i>

**Part One: Keep It Safe! .....** **1**

Fire Prevention .....	3
Putting Out a Small Fire .....	4
Escaping a Home Fire .....	6
Check Yourself .....	8
Preventing Poisoning .....	9
Safety with Electricity .....	11
Safety in the Kitchen .....	12
Preventing Falls .....	13
Under Lock and Key .....	15
What Would You Do? .....	16
True or False? .....	17

**Part Two: Keep It Clean! .....** **19**

You Don't Have to Eat Off the Floor .....	21
Make It Easy on Yourself! .....	23
Cleaning Tools and Supplies .....	24
Cleaning the Kitchen .....	25
Cleaning the Bathroom .....	26
Cleaning Other Rooms .....	27
Using Cleaners Safely .....	28
Check Yourself .....	30

**Part Three: Keeping Washable Goods Clean ..... 33**

The Basics ..... 35

Reading Labels ..... 36

All About Laundry Products ..... 38

Doing the Wash ..... 39

Drying Clothes ..... 40

Washer and Dryer Safety ..... 41

Using an Iron ..... 42

Check Yourself ..... 43

What Would You Do? ..... 45

*Words to Know* .....46

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## To the Student

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Living on your own can be a great experience! You can choose and decorate your own place. You can decide for yourself what and when to eat. You can set your own hours. In short, you are free to make your own choices about your lifestyle.

Along with these freedoms comes responsibility. Living on your own means it's up to you to take care of yourself when you're sick or hurt. You are now the one who must be sure your nutritional, physical, and emotional needs are met. No one will be watching over you to ensure your personal safety. No one will be looking to make sure you make good decisions about alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. It's up to you!

But that's not all! You must make good choices as you choose and set up your home. You must keep your home safe and clean. And you must use your money wisely to meet your needs.

You will have a better experience living on your own if you are prepared to meet your new responsibilities. The six books in the *Steps to Independent Living* series will teach you the skills you need to make it on your own.

(continued)

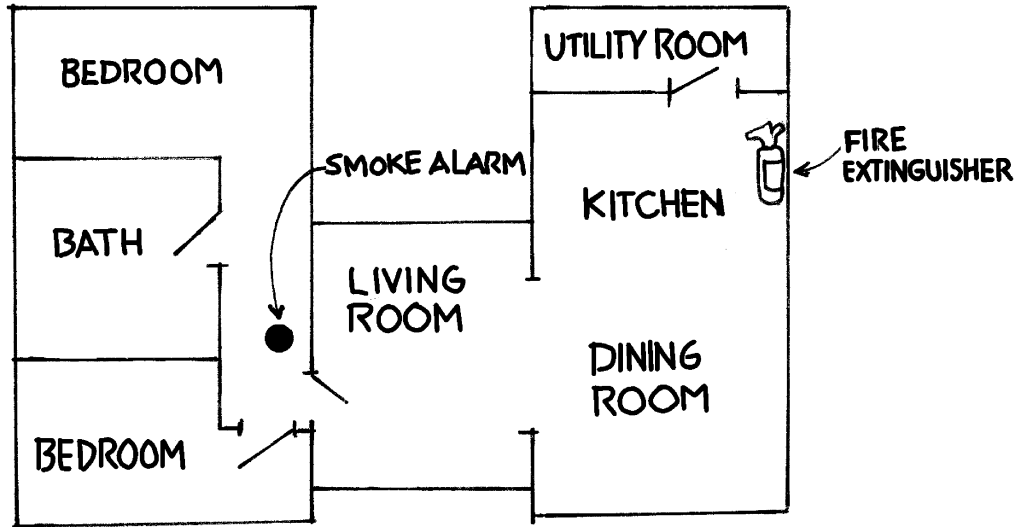
In this book, *How to Take Care of Your Home*, you will learn about:

- safety in the home,
- keeping your home clean, and
- keeping washable goods clean.

We hope this information helps prepare you for the day you start living on your own!

# Fire Prevention

No one likes to think about a fire in the home. But every year many people die in home fires. Protect yourself and your family. Know what to do to prevent fire.



Look around your home. Check off each thing you find:

- \_\_\_\_\_ You have smoke alarms that work.
- \_\_\_\_\_ You have a fire extinguisher that works.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Electrical cords are not broken or worn.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gas and/or oil are in closed metal containers away from heat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fireplace has a screen.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spray cans and paint are stored away from heat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Electrical outlets are not overloaded.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cords do not run under rugs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ No burnable things are stored near heat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Matches are stored out of children's reach.

## Putting Out a Small Fire

**You** are the most important thing in your house. Don't hurt yourself trying to put out a big or fast-growing fire. Get out of the house fast! Call the fire department from a neighbor's house.

But you can put out many small fires without putting yourself in danger. Just use good sense!

### 1. Fire in a pan



Put the lid on.

### 3. Grease fire



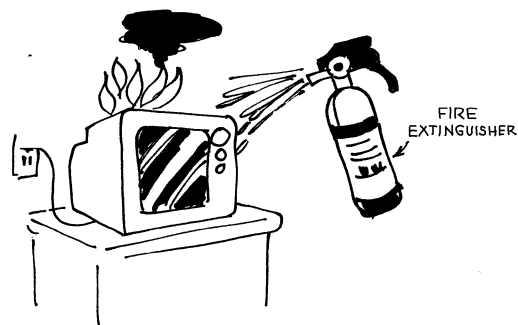
**DO NOT** use water!  
Cover pan with lid. **OR** Put baking soda or salt on it.

### 2. Fire in a wastebasket



Put water on it.

### 4. Electrical fire



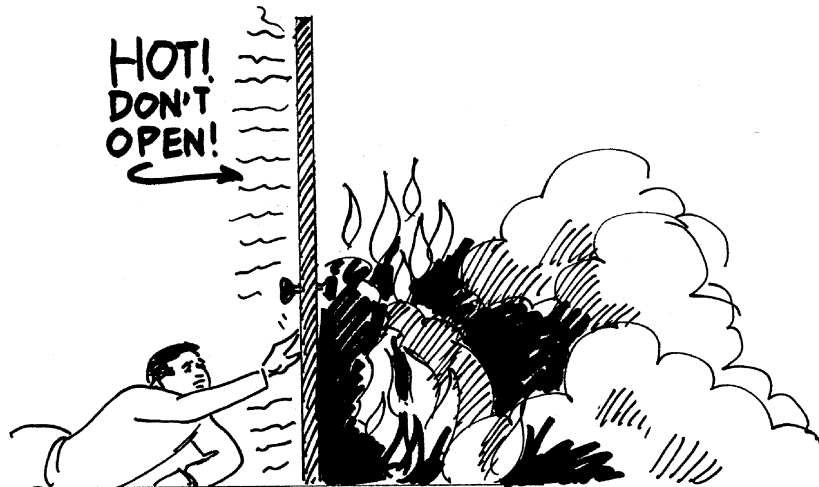
**DO NOT** use water! Pull out the plug (if it's safe). Use fire extinguisher.

## Escaping a Home Fire

If a fire is too big for you to put out easily, leave the house. Be sure everyone leaves. Call the fire department from a neighbor's phone. Don't go back inside to save things.

If there is a lot of smoke in the house, crawl to the exit. The air near the floor is clearer.

Touch a closed door before you open it. If it's hot, fire is on the other side. Find another way out.



If you're trapped by a fire, get by a window. Open the window just a crack for air. Hang something (like a sheet) out the window to attract attention. Stuff something under the door to keep out smoke.

If your clothes catch fire, **STOP, DROP, and ROLL.** Don't run for help! Drop to the floor. Roll over and over until the fire is out.



Have a family fire drill. Plan ways to escape from each room in the house in case of fire. Have a place to meet outside so you'll know everyone is safe.

## Check Yourself

Read each statement below. If the person did the right thing, write YES. If not, write NO. Explain each NO answer.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Mr. and Mrs. Baez had a family fire drill.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Mrs. Brown had a grease fire on her stove. She quickly poured a pitcher of water on it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. There was a fire at the Adams's house. Mr. Adams called the fire department. Then he woke up his family.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Sam's sleeve caught on fire. He ran quickly to get help.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Jo's toaster caught on fire. She threw water on it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Mr. Lind stored gasoline on a high shelf over the heater. It was out of the reach of children.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Larry ran lamp cords under the rug to hide them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. There was a fire in a pan. Ron put the lid on.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The house was on fire. There was a lot of smoke. Mary stood up tall to breathe the least smoke.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. There was a fire in the house. Joel touched the bedroom door. It was hot, so he went out the window.